Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-08 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 SS-15 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SP-02 ACDA-12 ABF-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 /073 W ------026549 291942Z /47

O 291830Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 791 SECDEF IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL LIBREVILLE 755

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MASS

SUBJECT: DELINQUENT PAYMENTS OF FMS LOANS

REF: LIBREVILLE 752

1. IN EFFORT TO RESOLVE DELINQUENT FMS PAYMENT PROBLEM WITH BONGO'S PERSONAL ADVISER MPOUHO LATE THIS AFTERNOON, I WOUND UP IN BONGO'S OFFICE. AFTER MUCH GRUMBLING DIRECTED AT US FOR LAST MINUTE APPROACH I FINALLY GOT THROUGH TO HIM THAT WE HAD ATTEMPTED TO ENSURE HE WAS AWARE OF PROBLEM THROUGH LETTERS TO HIS ADVISERS DATED JAN. 5 AND MARCH 21. HE CLAIMED NEVER TO HAVE HEARD OF PROBLEM UNTIL MY CALL TODAY (I BELIEVE HIM). OBVIOUSLY FEARING FOR HIS ARMORED CARS HE THEN WOUND UP DIRECTING MPOUHO TO SETTLE MATTER TOMORROW.

2. AFTER MEETING WITH BONGO, I GAVE MPOUHO WIRE TRANSFER ADDRESS OF U.S. TREASURY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 0120-3000-4, TREASURY NYC (5037) DEF SEC ASST AGENCY. WE THEN EXPLORED DESIRABILITY OF ARRANGING PAYMENT THROUGH AMB MAMBOUKA WHICH WAS OBVIOUSLY MPOUHO'S PREFERENCE. I TOLD MPOUHO I WOULD SEND MESSAGE TO DEPT TONIGHT CONVEYING BONGO'S INSTRUCTION TO PAY, ASK FOR DEPT AND DOD'S PREFERENCES REROUTE OF PAYMENT, AND FURTHER, ASK FOR REPLY BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TOMORROW MORNING.

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3. WITH BEST WILL IN WORLD, THIS MAY TAKE A LITTLE TIME TO SORT OUT. I THEREFORE RENEW MY REQUEST REFTEL THAT GOG BE GIVEN SOME EXTRA TIME. IT ALSO MY CONVICTION THAT MATTER WILL BE BEST HANDLED THROUGH DIRECT CONTACT WITH GABONESE EMBASSY RATHER THAN PAYMENT TO NEW YORK ACCOUNT, SINCE I CANNOT BE SURE GABONESE KNOW WHICH PAYMENTS GO TO FEDERAL FINANCING BANK AND WHICH

TO DOD. MPOUHO IN ANY CASE PROMISED SEND MESSAGE TO MAMBOUKA TOMORROW INFORMING HIM OF MY DEMARCHE AND PRESIDENTS RESPONSE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: SHORT EXTENSION OF TIME AND INDICATION OF DEPARTMENTS AND DOD'S WISHES GIVEN ABOVE DEVELOPMENT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TOMORROW. TIMING IS OF MORE THAN ORDINARY IMPORTANCE SINCE COUNCIL OF MINISTER MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR 0830 LOCAL AND PRINCIPLES MAY BE DIFFICULT TO REACH AFTER IT ONCE BEGINS. TIENKEN

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